

boldened by these decisive victories, achieved over much superior forces, and in quick succession, they conceived the bold and daring project of making themselves complete masters of this country, by at once attacking and destroying the defenceless inhabitants, which bold movement they carried into operation by a simultaneous attack upon the inhabitants of Apple River, Sinsinawa Mounds, in Grant county, Blue Mounds, and Hamilton's settlement. Gen. Dodge had just at this period, returned from an expedition to Ottawa, on the Illinois River, where Gen. Atkinson was then at head quarters with the main forces of the army.

Gen. Dodge had made this expedition for the purpose of representing to Gen. Atkinson, the exposed and defenseless condition of this country, and urge upon him the necessity and importance of prompt and energetic movements on the part of the army.

This was the second trip Gen. Dodge had made to the main army for this purpose, and for the additional purpose of obtaining some immediate force with which he could successfully keep the enemy in check, until the main body could reach this country. But failing of this last object, he hastened home, when, after almost incessant marching for eight days and nights, he arrived just in time to meet the threatened danger, and gave the first and effectual check to the audacity of the enemy in the battle of the Peka-tonica.

Gen. Dodge's entire force at this time did not exceed one hundred and fifty men, and they were dispersed in every part of the country at their respective forts; but by the most prompt, energetic and persevering movements of Gen. Dodge, (aided by every one of his officers and men,) from one point of danger to another, the enemy was kept in check until the slow movements of the main army enabled it to reach this country. After its arrival here, so discouraged and disheartened were many of the Illinois troops with the slow and unsuccessful movements of their officers, that they sought to make Gen. Dodge their commander, (I say not this of Gen. Henry's men, with him they were fully satisfied,) and it would no doubt have been fortunate for Gen. Dodge had this satis-